

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application is a continuation application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to parent Application Serial No. 09/849,278, filed May 7, 2001, which is currently pending.

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-11 respectively correspond to Claims 7-17 in the parent application (namely U.S. Application Serial No. 09/849,278), with Claims 7 and 12 in the parent application being amended. No new matter has been added.

The present remarks are made in light of an Office Action issued in the parent application mailed March 8, 2004.

The Office Action rejects Claims 7 and 12 in the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,553,051, herein "Sugiyama"); and objects to Claims 8-11 and 13-17 in the patent application, but indicates that Claims 8-11 and 13-17 in the patent application will be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection under 37 CFR § 1.75 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Tran by holding a telephone interview with the undersigned on April 1, 2004. During the interview, it was agreed that the objection to Claims 8-11 and 13-17 in the parent application under 37 CFR § 1.75 had already been overcome in a response in the parent application filed on December 18, 2003.

In response to the rejection of Claims 7 and 12 in the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sugiyama, the feature of at least one of the first and second grooves (or groove patterns) being a wobbling groove (or groove pattern) formed so that at least a portion thereof is meandered has been incorporated into Claims 1 and 6, which respectively


correspond to Claims 7 and 12 in the patent application. This feature has been identified as allowable subject matter in Claim 5 in the parent application in the Office Action issued in the parent application mailed September 18, 2003. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend on Claims 1 or 6. For at least the reasons given above with respect to Claims 1 and 6, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-5 and 7-11 are in condition for allowance as well.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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